Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Minutes | Faculty Senate

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Agenda & Minutes

January 23, 2024
Faculty Senate 2023-2024

Members Present: Todd Bruns (chair), Jeff Stowell (vice chair), Nichole Mulvey (recorder), Teshome Abebe, Matthew Inverso, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher, Isaac Slaven, Grant Sterling, Anne Thibault Geen, Larry White.

Guests: Ryan Hendrickson, Michael Gillespie, Ryan Gibson, Stacy Knight Davis, Jennifer Stringfellow

I. **Approval of minutes from January 9, 2024**
   a. Senator Inverso made the motion with Senator Abebe providing a second, to approve the minutes from the 1/9/24 meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

II. **Announcements**
   a. Presidential Chat, January 24, 8:30 AM in Doudna Recital Hall
   b. Final candidates for the Vice-President of Academic Affairs/Provost will be on campus between January 25th and February 7th. Faculty are encouraged to attend interview sessions and provide feedback.
   c. FDIC Pedagogy Day, March 14, 2024

III. **Communications**
   a. *Digital Archiving: Faculty Senate By-Laws Revision*

IV. **Committee Reports:**
   a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
      i. Faculty senate executive board met with the President and Interim Provost on January 16th. The executive board shared several announcements including:
         • A Town Hall meeting to discuss Plan 2028 will be held on March 26th at 2:00 p.m. in Doudna.
         • A celebration for ACA awardees and faculty granted tenure/promotion will be held in April following a BOT approval.
         • The new SDO, John Blue, has been on campus and participated in a successful and well-attended MLK Vigil walk.
         • Natalie Black has started as the new internal auditor as of January 1 and will join the President's Council.
         • Mindy Spencer, the new VPUA, will be joining campus the first full week of February.
         • The CENCERE classroom space will be completed soon. A future faculty senate meeting will be held there.
      ii. EIU Think Tank (Bruns) – No update/report.
      iii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns) – Senator Bruns shared updates from other university committees including CAA, CFR, and CGS. It was noted that Staff Senate is in a holding pattern as negotiations continue.
   b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell) – A call recently went out for two 1-semester

vacancies for UPC with a deadline of Friday 1/26/2024 to volunteer.

 c. Awards (Scher) – The call for the Distinguished Faculty Award went out last week with a deadline of February 23rd; the committee is still working to get an alumni member, but all other positions are filled.

 d. Budget Transparency (Parrish) – No report.

 e. Faculty Forum (Abebe) – Senator Abebe reported that no decisions have been made for the spring forum topic, but the forum has traditionally been held in March. As Think Tank continues to discuss pass/fail grading, the committee will continue to consider plus/minus grading in addition to other topics.

 f. Student and Staff Relations (Bruns): No report. It was noted that the Student Senate liaison has a class conflict this year, so Senator Bruns will reach out to determine if there will be a replacement.

V. Provost's Report

 a. Interim Provost Hendrickson gave a brief update on all of the new degrees that were approved at the Board of Trustees meeting (i.e., BAAS applied engineering, emergency management, MAT special education), with more degree updates in computer engineering and health practice to come.

 b. Dean Keith of Library Services is organizing an author's series this spring in place of book launches that were held in the fall. More details will be available soon.

VI. Guest Speaker - Director of ITS Ryan Gibson

 a. Director Gibson provided an overview of what ITS has completed in the last year that is relevant to faculty.

  i. EIU has a new 3-year agreement with Adobe for all faculty and students starting this year. ITS would like to see increased use across campus. Training will be available through FDIC.

  ii. In the last year 26 classrooms have been updated (i.e., new computers, projectors, other technology as needed) and 4 complete computer labs were updated. Classrooms are on an 8-year cycle for updates.

  iii. The ITS department now has their own electrician, which has greatly increased the ability to get classroom upgrades and other IT work completed.

  iv. Several banner upgrades occurred over the past year, and the transition has been smooth (i.e., relatively unnoticed by campus users).

  v. ITS was able to finalize a separate network segment and servers that support the cybersecurity program (and other programs on campus).

  vi. Changes were implemented regarding software requests (i.e., removed local admin access) to individual faculty and staff computers across campus. The changes were related to cyber security, software, and licensing and ITS spent significant time catching up all previous software requests this last year. Moving forward, this will only be for new software requests.

  vii. The recording software was replaced for the entire camera system on campus.

 b. Next, ITS Director Gibson provided upcoming plans.

  i. Microsoft Teams Phones have been going live this year as the campus transitions away from land line phones. Next academic year, every faculty member can request a phone number again. ITS is offering training for using Microsoft Teams a

        couple of times a week during this transition. Faculty are encouraged to attend training to get any questions answered.

    ii. Every 15 seconds EIU is backing up data that can be accessed within 5 minutes. This update has occurred within the last few months.

    iii. Microsoft does a lot of phishing filtering for us now but there will be an increase in filtering coming soon. Recently, 3% of employees fell for a phishing attack.

    iv. ITS is partnering with Booth Library to increase the number of laptops available to checkout through the library loan program. There will be 200 more laptops available, and the checkout period will be longer.

    v. ITS Director Gibson is leading the facilities investment committee, which is focusing on campus needs for the next 5 years. A vendor will be coming to campus this spring and holding open meetings for all campus constituents. Director Gibson stressed the need to hear from faculty, campus community, etc. to determine EIU's vision and to help determine priorities.

    vi. Senator Bruns asked about using new technology, such as ReMarkable, and connecting to EIU wifi. Director Gibson shared the following information for registering a ReMarkable or other note taking tablet or similar device: https://www.eiu.edu/panthertech/kb/004/kb00400008.php.

VII.   Discussions/Upcoming Agenda

a. +/- Grading, Pass/Fail (Bruns/Abebe)

    i. This item will plan to be discussed later in the semester as part of the planning for faculty forum.

b. Digital archiving: By Laws and Policy update (Bruns)

- Senator Bruns shared an updated resolution related to digital archiving of Faculty Senate minutes that included numbering and responsibilities of the recorder for movement to The Keep for digital archiving.
- Senator Bruns made a motion to approve the resolution to update the bylaws with a second by Senator Scher. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Gen Ed revisions/Writing-in-Major (Bruns/Sterling/Heist) *Feb. 20*

d. Faculty appointment process for IAB, IRB, IACUC (Scher/Stowell) *Mar. 26*

- Senator Bruns made a motion to table items c. and d. until guest speakers are present at the meeting as indicated on the agenda and to adjourn the meeting. Senator Sterling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.